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Item 107 of the preliminary list*
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present note contains information on the deliberations held and the action taken by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice during its twenty-seventh session, held in Vienna from 14 to 18 May 2018, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/192, entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice". It complements the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for consideration at that session (E/CN.15/2018/11).

1. In its resolution 72/192, entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to Governments to take into consideration the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. In the same resolution, the Assembly welcomed the work undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Doha Declaration.

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2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly noted the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and decided that the main theme of the Fourteenth Congress would be "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda". The Assembly also decided that the Fourteenth Congress should open with a high-level segment, at which States would be invited to be represented at the highest possible level, and that the Fourteenth Congress should adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration. Also in the same resolution, the Assembly approved the provisional agenda for the Fourteenth Congress and decided upon the issues to be considered in the workshops of the Congress.

3. Also in the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Fourteenth Congress and, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Congress and for the Congress itself in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2019. The Assembly invited Member States to be actively involved in that process. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the resolution and to report thereon to it through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

4. Also in its resolution 72/192, the General Assembly requested the Commission to accord sufficient time at its twenty-seventh session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

5. At its twenty-seventh session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had before it, for its consideration, the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress and preparations for the Fourteenth Congress (E/CN.15/2018/11). The report contained information on the preparations conducted so far, the venue and duration of the Congress, the theme, the provisional agenda and workshops, the structure and conduct, the outcome and resource allocation. It also contained information on the regional preparatory meetings and on the preparation of the discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Congress itself. Also at its twenty-seventh session, the Commission had before it, for its review and consideration, a conference room paper containing the draft version of the discussion guide (E/CN.15/2018/CRP.1).

6. During the deliberations, all speakers recognized the significant role of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice and their inherent capacity to shape international and domestic policy in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Speakers thanked the Government of Japan, which will serve as host for the Fourteenth Congress, for its outstanding organizational and substantive preparations. The completion of negotiations on the Doha Declaration prior to the Thirteenth Congress was noted as a good practice that should be replicated during preparations for the Fourteenth Congress.

7. The representative of Japan informed the Commission of his Government's decision to organize a youth forum prior to the Fourteenth Congress and noted that the modalities of the organization of the forum would be brought to the attention of the Commission at its twenty-eighth session. He commended the Secretariat on the well-balanced content of the discussion guide and requested its prompt finalization so that it could serve as the basis for discussions at the regional preparatory meetings. He also provided substantive feedback on the content of the discussion guide.

8. The representative of Costa Rica reiterated her Government's invitation to host the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourteenth Congress in 2019, following previous practice.

9. Owing to the unique timing of the Fourteenth Congress in relation to the lifespan of the Sustainable Development Goals, many speakers noted that the Congress would provide an opportunity to go beyond an analysis of traditional manifestations of crime and to discuss new and emerging forms of crime in a broader context.

10. Several speakers reported on their national efforts to implement the Doha Declaration, underscoring the fundamental importance of the rule of law to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, one speaker commended the ongoing work of UNODC in implementing the Doha Declaration in the areas of strengthening judicial integrity and preventing corruption in justice systems, fostering the rehabilitation and social integration of prisoners and preventing youth crime through sport, and through the Education for Justice initiative.

11. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice".

12. In that resolution, the General Assembly would decide to hold the Fourteenth Congress in Kyoto, Japan, from 20 to 27 April 2020, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 19 April 2020. The Assembly would also decide that the high-level segment of the Fourteenth Congress should be held during the first two days of the Congress in order to allow Heads of State or Government and Government ministers to focus on the main theme of the Congress and to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback. The Assembly would further decide that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Fourteenth Congress should adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration.

13. In addition, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to finalize, in a timely manner, the discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Fourteenth Congress, the draft of which was prepared in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network. In doing so, the Secretary-General should take into account the recommendations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as additional comments and feedback from Member States, in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress to be held as early as possible in 2019.[1]

14. Also in that resolution, the General Assembly would reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to proceed with the organization of the four regional preparatory meetings for the Fourteenth Congress and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Congress itself, as well as making a special effort to organize the regional preparatory meeting for European and other States, so as to benefit from their inputs.

15. Also in that same resolution, the General Assembly would urge Governments to actively participate in the regional preparatory meetings and invite their representatives to examine the agenda items and workshop topics and to make action-oriented recommendations for consideration by the Fourteenth Congress. It would also invite Governments to undertake preparations for the Fourteenth Congress at an early stage, including by establishing national preparatory committees.

16. Further in that same resolution, the General Assembly would reiterate its invitation to Member States to be represented at the Fourteenth Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government, Government

[1] It should be noted that, owing to the advanced progress in preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, will have finalized the discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Fourteenth Congress by the time the relevant resolution is considered by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

ministers or attorneys general, and to play an active role by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice.

17. Moreover, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Fourteenth Congress and would encourage the relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with UNODC in the preparations for the Congress. The Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to facilitate the participation of developing countries in the workshops and would encourage States, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, other concerned entities and the Secretary-General to work together in order to ensure that the workshops are well-focused and achieve practical results, leading to technical cooperation ideas and projects and documents for enhancing bilateral and multilateral technical assistance activities in crime prevention and criminal justice.

18. In addition, the General Assembly would reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Fourteenth Congress, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community. The Assembly would encourage Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain a strong partnership with the private sector and civil society organizations.

19. In the same resolution, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to: (a) prepare a plan for the documentation for the Fourteenth Congress, in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission; (b) appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Fourteenth Congress to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice; (c) ensure, in collaboration with Member States, a wide and effective programme of public information relating to the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, to the Congress itself and to the follow-up to and implementation of its recommendations; and (d) provide UNODC with the necessary resources to support the preparations for and holding of the Fourteenth Congress.

20. Finally, the General Assembly would request the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to accord sufficient time at its twenty-eighth session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Fourteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. It would request the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the resolution and to report thereon to the Assembly through the Commission at its twenty-eighth session.